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or Fruit Bats, with 4 subfamilies and 30 genera; the latter containing all the others, which are here distributed among 16 families and 13 subfamilies.

This important monograph is based on the material contained in the U. S. National Museum and other American museums, supplemented by the examination of that contained in the principal museums of Europe, with the result that all but three of the 173 genera here recognized have passed through the hands of the author. The number of "forms" of Chiroptera at present recognized is stated to be about 900; "a number probably representing considerably less than half of what will eventually be known." The designation "forms" probably includes subspecies as well as species.

The systematic part (pp. 43–261) gives the characters of all the higher groups, from order to genus, with the geographic distribution and probable number of forms of each, and diagnostic keys for the suborders, families, subfamilies and genera. The divisions adopted, from families down to genera, are greatly in excess of those recognized by any previous author, but they appear to be all natural groups, subject of course to a different valuation by different authors, according to their points of view. No subgenera are recognized; of the 173 genera characterized, 19 have been proposed by Mr. Miller, only two of which, however, are here first published. For each of the genera a type species is designated, the probable number of species is stated, and those examined by the author are enumerated. The full synonymy is given, not only of the genera but of all the higher groups — a feature of much importance.

In this monograph, the outcome of years of careful investigation, Mr. Miller's usual thoroughness and critical attention to minute details of structure are conspicuously apparent, with the result that naturalists are now provided with an excellent guide through the labyrinths of this large and difficult order of mammals. The text cuts and the first ten plates furnish excellent illustrations, all original, of the dentition and cranial characters of about one third of the genera, thus supplementing in a most important way those contained in previous works, to which, however, direct references are unfortunately wanting. The last four plates illustrate the principal parts of the skeleton in four diverse types — *Rhinopoma microphyllum, Diclidurus virgo, Noctilio leporinus, Molossus pretiosus.*

J. A. A.

Birds of North and Middle America.— Mr. Robert Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America" is the most important systematic work ever undertaken relating to American ornithology. The original estimate for the work was a series of eight volumes, in octavo, of about 1000 pages each. Its official designation is "Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 50." The first volume appeared near the close of the year 1901, and included the single family Fringillidae; the second was published in 1902, and covers the four families Tanagridae, Icteridae, Coerebidae, and Mniotiltidae; the third bears date 1904, and includes 15 of the remaining families of oscinine Passeres; the fourth, published in July of the present year, includes the remaining six families of the Oscines and the first four families of the Mesomyodi. These families are: Turdidae, Zeledoniidae, Mimidae, Sturnidae, Ploceidae, Alaudidae of the Oscines; Oxyruncidae, Tyrannidae, Pipridae, Cotingidae, of the Mesomyodi. These four volumes include "1675 species and subspecies, or somewhat more than half the total number of North and Middle American birds," or those found north of the Isthmus of Panama, which forms approximately the southern boundary of the area treated. The preparation of Part V is well advanced.

The treatment is entirely technical; definitions are given of all the higher groups, with keys to the minor divisions, and in the case of genera to the species and subspecies. The latter are described in detail, with a concise statement of their geographic ranges, followed by full (often annotated) bibliographic tables, which often frequently occupy the larger part of the text. But there is nothing relating to their life histories beyond, in some instance, a brief reference under the generic headings to the nest and eggs. The work is, however, invaluable to the systematist, and will ever remain a monument to the industry and painstaking accuracy of its author, and it will be long before its usefulness will be superceded by any subsequent work.

J. A. A.

BOTANY

Floral Ecology.— In the writings of Darwin and his contemporaries the structure and environmental relations of flowers hold a prominent place. This is only natural when we remember that the Darwinian theory is essentially a theory of adaptation. For a considerable time it seemed that interest in floral adaptations was lagging, but this kind of work is again being quite generally taken up. Possibly a reason for